are avilable regarding the number of mentally handicapped persons actually engaged in suitable occupations.

Pending cases in the Central Government Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Court and State level Labour Courts

*254. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of cases are pending in the Central Government Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Court and State level Labour Courts for a long time;

(b) if so, the lates position in this regard;

(c) the reasons for pendency of these cases; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government for expenditious trial of the pending cases?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (d) As on 30.9.1996, 6,049 Industrial disputes and 4833 applications were pending before Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Courts set up by the Central Government. In the States and Union Territory of Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Pondicherry, Manipur, Punjab, Haryana and Daman and Diu 42,181 industrial disputes and applications were pending as on 31.12.1995. In the remaining States, except the States of Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh for which information is not available, 3,55,428 Industrial disputes and applications were pending as on 30.6.96.

Major reasons for pendency are:—

(i) Almost all the disputes are now required to be referred to the Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Courts in confirmity with the direction of the Supreme Court;

(ii) vacancies in the post of Presiding Officers from time to time;

(iii) procedural impediments; and

(iv) shortage of Labour Courts in State/Union Territories.

While effecting procedural changes with a view to expediting disposal of cases is a continuous process, some of the more important steps taken recently in this regard are as follows:—

— norms for disposal of cases by the Presiding Officers have been fixed;

— while old cases are accorded priority, fresh cases are being assigned to the Courts having lesser pendency;

— parties to the disputes are discouraged to seek adjournments and where unavoidable, short duration adjournments are allowed. They are also impressed upon to complete all formalities as expeditiously as possible;

— additional labour courts are being created keeping in view the overall pendency and subject to financial constraints;

— efforts are being made to improve the service conditions of the post of Presiding Officers; and

— efforts are being made to fill up vacancies in the post of Presiding Officers on priority basis.

Number of Girls' Hostels for tribal girls run by Government

*255. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Girls' Hostels in the country for the tribal girls run by Government.

(b) whether Government are aware that those hostels are facing several problems including lack of funds in their running; and